

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on March 23, 2004. Applicant respectfully traverses all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment, claims 10, 14, and 17 are amended. Claims 22-24 are newly presented. Claims 1-6 and 8-24 remain pending.

Claims 10, 14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Parry in U.S. Patent No. 5,016,369 in view of Thiele in U.S. Patent No. 3,828,772. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The Examiner indicated that the limitation "sclerosing agent" can be interpreted quite broadly so that the cited references render claims 10, 14, and 17 obvious. Applicant believes that the limitation "sclerosing agent" can be interpreted broadly so as to include those agents listed in the specification and equivalents thereto, and that these agents distinguish the claimed invention from the cited art. Nonetheless, claims 10, 14, and 17 are amended so that each recites that the side surface of the second projection includes an aperture. Neither Parry nor Thiele disclose or teach this limitation. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art (see: MPEP §2143 and §2143.03). Accordingly, amended claims 10, 14, and 17 are allowable over these references. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Appl. No. 10/027,697
Amdt. dated June 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2004

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

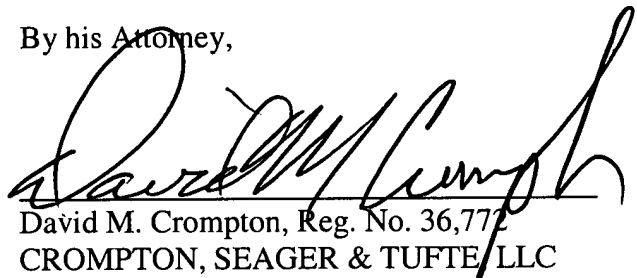
Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey M. Wendlandt

By his Attorney,

Date: _____

6/21/04



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